

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 14526 101047Z

43

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 NEA-06 EUR-10 IO-03 SP-02 DRC-01 /069 W

----- 085687

R 100901Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6607

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14526

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, SEATO

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S ATTENDANCE AT SEATO

1. ON SEPTEMBER 9 I ATTENDED A VIN D'HONNEUR COMMEMORATING THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE MANILA PACT AND TALKED FOR SOME TIME WITH SECRETARY-GENERAL SUNTHORN. THE BURDEN OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH ME WAS HIS HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE SEATO COUNCIL MEETING IN NEW YORK ON OCTOBER 3. HE RECOUNTED THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE SEATO COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND PARTICULARLY THE PHILIPPINE SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS GENERAL ROMULO'S CRITICAL COMMENT ABOUT THE INABILITY OF THE SECRETARY TO ATTEND LAST YEAR'S SEATO COUNCIL MEETING. I TOLD SUNTHORN THAT THERE WERE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES LAST YEAR CONNECTED WITH THE SECRETARY'S THEN VERY RECENT ASSUMPTION OF HIS OFFICE.

2. I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT SEATO PLAYS AN INDISPENSABLE ROLE AS FAR AS THE US PRESENCE IN THAILAND IS CONCERNED. I DO HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY WILL BE ABLE AT LEAST TO OPEN THE SEATO COUNCIL MEETING AND IN THIS FASHION DEMONSTRATE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE USG'S COMMITMENT TO THE CONTINUED VITALITY OF SEATO. IF THE SECRETARY COULD STAY WITH THE SEATO COUNCIL FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR IN ADDITION TO HOSTING THE DINNER FOR THE SEATO COUNCIL MEMBERS ON THE EVENING

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OF OCTOBER 3, THE MINIMUM DIPLOMATIC AMENITIES WOULD BE OBSERVED.

KINTNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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